(c) if so, whether there is any growing strains in the relationship with neighbouring China; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) Yes.

(b) Deployment of a defence aircraft is undertaken keeping in view the operational requirement of the Services from time to time. This is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) India and China have established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. There are regular political contacts between the leaders of the two countries. The two countries have established a dialogue architecture at all level to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Bilateral trade and economic relations have shown perceptible growth. The two sides have held two joint military training exercises. The functional cooperation between India and China is expanding in a number of areas. Both sides have agreed that they are committed to resolving outstanding differences, including on the boundary question, through peaceful negotiations, while ensuring that such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations.

Indians in UN Peace Keeping Mission

3540. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians in UN Peace Keeping mission have suffered the largest number of casualties;

(b) if so, the details thereof as compared to personnel from developed countries; and

(c) the number out of them that have been awarded with bravery award by Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Yes. Since the inception of UN peace keeping in 1948, 131 Indians have lost their lives, as on 30 June, 2009. During the same period, among the developed countries, the highest fatalities were from : Canada (114), UK (99) and France (98).

(c) One; Capt. Gurbachan Singh Salaria (1st Gorkha Rifles), was awarded the Param Vir Chakra (PVC) for having made the supreme sacrifice in Congo on 05 December, 1961.

Chinese advice regarding Indian Ocean

3541. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: